

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-03

INFO OCT-01 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 MBFR-03 ADP-00 EUR-25 PM-07

USIA-15 RSC-01 /075 R

DRAFTED BY PA/PG:DFBARRETT:MS

8/28/73 EXT. 20259

APPROVED BY PA/PG-DBROWN

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

ACDA, S/AJ, D/MBFR, EUR, PM, PA, USIA

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P R 282010Z AUG 73

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, PINT, PARM, XG

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

GENEVA FOR KRAUS AND DAVIS

INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. WEEKEND PAPERS FRONTPAGED GIS START
THAILAND PULLOUT; US TRADE SHOWS CONTINUED GAINS; BOMBINGS
DISRUPT LONDON; NORTH VIETNAMESE REPORTED FIGHTING
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CAMBODIAN REBELS; ROGERS CRITICIZES WHITE HOUSE FOR TAPS
ON AIDES. MONDAY PAPERS HEADLINED WALDHEIM CALLS GLOBAL
CONCORD "NEVER SO URGENT"; SOVIET SAYS CHINA SEEKS NUCLEAR
POWER ROLE; CAMBODIA INFIGHT IS REPORTED. TUESDAY PAPERS

FRONTPAGE LETTERBOMB HITS BRITISH CHANCERY; KISSINGER
SEEKING ADVICE ON ENVOYS; 2 TOP DISSIDENTS ON TRIAL IN
SOVIET.

2. POSEIDON RECALL. SUNDAY WASHSTAR-NEWS, ORR KELLY
REPORTED RECALL OF POSEIDON MISSILES THAT NOW MAKE UP
NEARLY HALF OF US OVERSEAS STRATEGIC FORCE HAS BEEN
RECOMMENDED BY REAR ADM LEVERING SMITH, POLARIS-POSEIDON
PROJECT MANAGER, DUE TO SERIES OF TEST FAILURES. SMITH
APPEARED BEFORE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE IN HEAVILY
CENSORED TESTIMONY ON MAY 16. NAVY OFFICIALS REFUSED DIS-
CUSS DETAILS OF PROBLEM BUT IT WAS LEARNED THAT 58 PERCENT
OF MISSILES TRIED OUT IN OPERATIONAL TESTS EXPERIENCED

SOME KIND OF FAILURE. NAVY OFFICIALS INDICATED HOWEVER
THAT IF MISSILES HAD BEEN FIRED IN ANGER, MOST WARHEADS
WOULD HAVE EXPLODED ON OR CLOSE TO TARGET. SMITH HAS NOT
RECEIVED GO-AHEAD BUT INSTEAD HAS BEEN TOLD TO BRING IN
LIMITED NUMBER OF MISSILES TO TEST FOR OPERATIONAL FAILURES
ACCORDING REAR ADM KAUFMAN, WHO ADDED THERE IS NO PLAN TO
PULL IN POSEIDON SUBMARINES ON EMERGENCY BASIS AND STRIP
THEM OF MISSILES. SMITH AND KAUFMAN HAVE EMPHASIZED
POSEIDONS STILL RELIABLE ENOUGH TO BE OF VERY SERIOUS
CONCERN TO SOVIETS. KAUFMAN SAID PROBLEMS WITH POSEIDON
DID NOT INDICATE DIFFICULTY WITH TRIDENT, ADDING THERE IS
STILL ENOUGH TIME SO FAULTS FOUND IN POSEIDON COULD BE
AVOIDED IN TRIDENT.

2A. MONDAY WASHSTAR-NEWS, UPI REPORTED SECRETARY
SCHLESINGER ON SUNDAY'S MEET THE PRESS SAID THERE HAS BEEN
"NO SIGNIFICANT WEAKENING OF US DETERRENT" AS RESULT OF
POSSIBLE PROBLEMS WITH POSEIDON MISSILE. SCHLESINGER WAS
RESPONDING TO REPORT THAT ADM SMITH WANTED TO RECALL
POSEIDONS BECAUSE THEY MAY NOT BE RELIABLE. SCHLESINGER
SAID IT MIGHT BE DESIREABLE OVER PERIOD OF TIME TO REFIT
MISSILES TO INSURE THAT THEY WORK MORE SATISFACTORILY.
HE ALSO SAID SOVIETS WILL GAIN STRATEGIC EDGE UNLESS US
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RESPONDS TO RUSSIAN DEVELOPMENT OF MIRV, ADDING DESPITE
SOVIET DEVELOPMENT US HOPED TO GET NEW SALT AGREEMENT BY
END OF 1974.

3. SINO-SOVIET QUARREL. MONDAY NYTIMES, MOSCOW, SHABAD
REPORTED SOVIETS RAISED PUBLIC ATTACKS AGAINST CHINA TO
NEW LEVEL OF HOSTILITY BY CHARGING THAT PEKING WAS
INTENT ON BECOMING NEW NUCLEAR SUPERPOWER AIMING AT
DOMINATION OVER ASIA, PRAVDA ARTICLE FOCUSING ON CHINA'S
NUCLEAR EXPLOSION OF JUNE 27. STATEMENT, REFLECTING
VIEWS OF SOVIET LEADERSHIP, ACCUSED CHINA OF "HIGH-HANDED
DISREGARD MAOISTS DISPLAY FOR WORLD DEMANDS FOR PROHIBITION
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS" AND CHARGED THAT PEKING WAS MAKING

EFFORTS TO "ACCELERATE CHINA'S TRANSFORMATION INTO NUCLEAR-MISSILE SUPERPOWER, WHOSE PRESENT LEADERS WOULD LIKE TO DECIDE FATE OF COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES." MONDAY BALTSUN CARRIED SIMILAR REUTER ARTICLE.

4. FRENCH A-TESTS. SUNDAY WASHSTAR-NEWS, SYDNEY, UPI REPORTED AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND SAID THEY BELIEVED FRANCE HAD EXPLODED A FOURTH NUCLEAR DEVICE IN SOUTH PACIFIC. FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTRY DECLINED TO EITHER CONFIRM OR DENY REPORT. BUT CONSERVATIVE PARIS NEWSPAPER L'AUREORE SAID REPORTED NEW EXPLOSION WAS FIRST

THERMONUCLEAR DEVICE TESTED THIS YEAR AND WOULD BE LAST TEST IN FRENCH SERIES. SUNDAY WASHPOST CARRIED SIMILAR ARTICLE.

5. COMMENT/MIRV. FRIDAY WASHSTAR-NEWS, SMITH HEMPSTONE COLUMN SAID SUCCESSFUL MIRV TESTS BY SOVIETS MEANS AGREEMENT ARISING FROM SALT ONE IS NOT WORTH PAPER WRITTEN ON. WITH GREATLY MODERNIZED AND EXPANDED SOVIET FLEET IN POSITION TO CHALLENGE WEST FOR CONTROL OF SEAS AND US ARMY'S VOLUNTEER CONCEPT SHOWING SIGNS OF FAILURE, SHIFTING OF NUCLEAR BALANCE OF TERROR IN RUSSIA'S FAVOR IS AT THE LEAST DISQUIETING. WHATEVER SOVIETS MAY AGREE TO AT SALT TWO, PRUDENT ASSUMPTION HAS TO BE THAT RUSSIANS ARE MIRVING THEIR ICBMS. THERE HAS TO BE IRON-CLAD METHOD OF VERIFICATION BY ON-SITE INSPECTION OR SOME OTHER MEANS, HEMPSTONE ADDING GIVEN THEIR TRACK RECORD THIS IS MATTER UNCLASSIFIED

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IN WHICH RUSSIANS' WORD SIMPLY NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

5A. COMMENT/MIRV. TUESDAY WASHSTAR-NEWS, ORR KELLY COMMENTS MIRV NO LONGER LAST WORD IN STRATEGIC ARMS EQUATION. FROM NOW ON CALCULATIONS MUST REVOLVE AROUND DEVICE SO NEW IN US STRATEGIC THINKING THAT IT HASN'T EVEN PICKED UP AN AGREED UPON ACRONYM YET. NEW DEVICE FOR WHICH PENTAGON SEEKING 15.2 MILLIONS THIS YEAR IS MODERNIZATION OF OLD IDEA - THE CRUISE MISSILE, WHICH IS COMING BACK IN FAVOR BECAUSE IT SEEMS TO DEFENSE PLANNERS A RELATIVELY QUICK AND CHEAP WAY TO COUNTERBALANCE GROWTH IN SOVIET WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY, BUT WHICH IS FOR ARMS CONTROLLERS A LIVING NIGHTMARE. IT NOW SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT CONGRESS WILL BE LIKELY TO CATCH UP WITH THIS LATEST TWIST IN ARMS RACE IN TIME FOR MEANINGFUL DECISION THIS YEAR ON WHETHER US SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH THIS NEW WEAPONS SYSTEM. BUT THIS BASIC DECISION SHOULD BE MADE BEFORE FURTHER DECISIONS ARE MADE ON B1 BOMBER, TRIDENT SUBMARINE OR FUTURE OF MINUTEMAN MISSILE.

5B. COMMENT/SALT. ST. LOUIS GLOBE-DEMOCART OF AUGUST 20 COMMENTED WISDOM OF US AGREEMENT TO SALT ONE DEPENDS UPON

RESULTS OF SALT TWO. WE RELIED ON TECHNOLOGY TO SAVE US IN SALT ONE BUT SOVIETS ARE NOW DESTROYING THAT EQUALIZER BY THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS. LAST THING WE CAN AFFORD IN SALT TWO IS ANY FURTHER DETERIORATION OF OUR DETERRENT ABILITY, YET THIS MAY BE HAPPENING. US PUBLIC DESERVES PROGRESS REPORT ON SALT TWO NEGOTIATIONS, AND IT SHOULD DEMAND THAT CONGRESSMEN PRESS FOR SUCH AN ACCOUNTING.

5C. COMMENT/TROOPS IN EUROPE. OAKLAND TRIBUNE OF AUGUST 27 WARNED THAT WHAT SHOULD BE AVOIDED AT ALL COSTS IS UNILATERAL US REDUCTION OF TROOP STRENGTH ON CONTINENT. WHILE THERE IS SOME EXPECTATION THAT FORTHCOMING MBFR MAY SUCCEED, WHICH MAY LEAD TO PHASING DOWN OF US FORCES IN EUROPE, US TROOPS SHOULD NOT BE WITHDRAWN COMPLETELY. MILITARY STRENGTH IS ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN OUR SECURITY POSITION REGARDLESS OF OPTIMISTIC ANTICIPATIONS ABOUT FRUITS OF DETENTE. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE171201
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PA/PG:DFBARRETT:MS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730869/abqceijv.tel
Line Count: 183
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <16-Aug-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE
TAGS: PINT, PARM, US, XG
To: GENEVA INFO LONDON
PARIS
ROME
BONN
NATO
BERLIN
MOSCOW

TOKYO
CANBERRA
WELLINGTON

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005